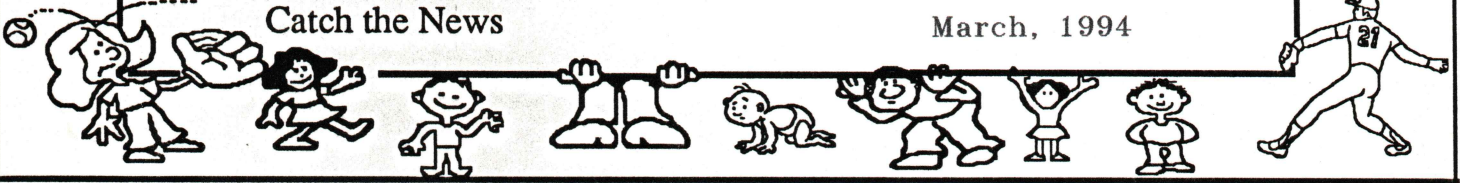




# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

March, 1994



## BOB GILLINGHAM FEATURED IN PARKER SCHOOL PUBLICATION

Recently the mailman delivered to us our copy of the January/February 1994 issue of PARKER, the publication put out by the Francis Parker School, and we were surprised to see a full page article on Bob G. Just to be sure we didn't miss it, Listy sent us a copy with the article outlined in felt pen. She also highlighted two other items on Bob, one on page 4, which lists a contribution to the Honors & Memorials Fund by Frances D. Styles "as a tribute to Dr. Bob Gillingham", and another one on page 7, with a picture of Bob and Headmaster Jerral Miles. Mr. Miles is shown presenting to Bob a plaque honoring school founders Clara Sturges Johnson and William Templeton Johnson. The occasion was the eightieth anniversary of the founding of the Francis Parker school, on November 22, 1913. We do not have room to print all of these items, but the opposite article is a reproduction of the page 4 feature story. We can only agree with the note Listy sent with the copy she mailed to us, "Mom, check out pages 3, 4 and 7 - Bob is famous - Listy"

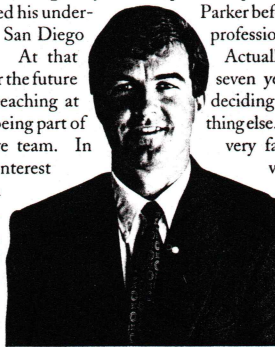
## SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR

Recently Aunt Margaret showed up at Grandpa's house, along with Megan and two of her friends who are working on a project for the school science fair scheduled for next month. The project of major interest is the paddle boat competition, in which each school team designs and builds a rubber band powered paddle wheel boat. There are some very restrictive rules on the size of the boat, and how the rubber band motors can be used. The entire afternoon was consumed in building prototype configurations for the boat and the paddle wheels. Various ideas were tested out in the bath tub, and some progress was made in improving the performance. The winning entry is the one which

## Call him Doctor Bob

### The long and winding road from bus driver to doctor of education

When Lower School Head Bob Gillingham began driving a bus for Francis Parker School in 1973, he thought it would be a good job while he completed his undergraduate work at San Diego State University. At that time, his vision for the future did not include teaching at Parker, let alone being part of the administrative team. In fact, Bob had no interest in administration work whatsoever. Like many people, however, he was to learn that the bus doesn't always stop where we thought it would.



Bob notes, too, that he wasn't the only one who went for an extended ride on the big yellow bus. Debbie Burzynski, Parker's director of transportation, was also driving a bus at the time, while studying for a degree in speech therapy. He considers the fact that they both ended up staying at Parker an indication of the school's attraction.

"I had been teaching in Spring Valley for a few years when I heard about a fifth grade opening at Parker,"

he remembers. He also notes with some irony how then Headmaster Doug Crone told him he could expect to spend about five years at Parker before seeking additional professional challenges.

Actually, Bob spent the next seven years at Parker before deciding to move on to something else. Only the move wasn't very far — just across the valley to the Middle School, where he taught sixth grade English for the next three years. Throughout his teaching years, Bob says he never had any intentions of be-

coming an administrator. "I never understood why anyone would want to be an administrator," he said. "Until Jerral Miles explained some of the professional challenges and rewards."

Upon earning his administrative credential from Pt. Loma College, the professors there urged him to consider a doctoral program. Late last year Northern Arizona University informed him that he had been granted a Ed.D. degree, making him a doctor of education.

When he thinks back to that time that he was told he would probably leave after a few years, Bob realizes just how far he has come. "The institution grows on you," he says. "For me it's a place where I have grown professionally. It's been tremendously interesting to see the school not just from this perspective, but also from across the valley."

Acknowledging that one challenge often leads to another, he says he spends much of his day problem solving, always keeping the focus on doing what's best for the students of Parker.



As a school head, Bob Gillingham wears many hats in the course of one day — sometimes literally. But whatever hat he is wearing at any given moment, his top priority is maintaining Parker's heritage of excellence, both as a place to learn and a place to work.



travels the farthest around a circular course laid out in a small inflated pool. Additional work

is planned prior to the construction of the final boat configuration to be used in the contest.



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## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Michael celebrated his 13th birthday recently, with a visit to Grandma's. His celebration was a part of a busy weekend when he celebrated one day with Grandma and another day at Aunt Carol's and Uncle Jeff's house because both Bud and Margaret were away on business (see travel news section). In this complicated shuffling of children Megan, whose January celebration was delayed (see last month's issue) was delivered to Grandma's home on Thursday the 17th, and her delayed celebration included a trip to the toy store, lunch with Grandma and Grandpa, and a movie. She then was dropped off at the Benesch home. In the meantime, at 3:00 p.m. Grandpa picked up Michael at his home and drove him to the Benesch home. The next morning Uncle Jeff dropped off Michael for his turn. There was lunch at Sizzlers, a trip to the toy store and a movie, Blank Check. Michael stayed with Grandma until the evening, when we all went to see the musical Aladdin, and Michael then joined Megan at the Benesch home. Another birthday boy with a delayed celebration was Brett, who was on vacation at Disneyworld. Grandma has not forgotten, however, and his time will come.

## BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

Margaret Riel	March 6	44
Jessica Benesch	March 17	11
Craig Hartman	March 19	11
Jeffrey Benesch	March 23	42

## PAX FACTS

Carol and Jeff have checked in with their computer equipment, and they list the following.  
PAX line 286-5430 (machine must be turned on)  
MacIntosh Perform 550 CD player and printer  
Apple GS

## TRAVEL NEWS

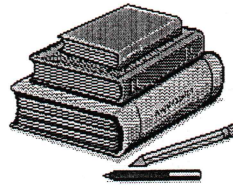
There were two sets of airport shuttle tasks recently. In the first one, we agreed to take Francie, Jose and family to the airport for their

## Chronicles Of CRAIG

SEPTEMBER, 1993

### IN MY OPINION

Homework should not exist because when you get home you want to just lie back and relax. But you can't; you still have homework. Why me and many other kids are against homework. I feel that we do enough work at school let alone compensate and have the work you don't finish in class for homework but that's it.



### CURRENTS

Pop-Eye is a disease you get from having the nerve push on the eyeball! The nerve pushes on the eyeball when the heart is pumping blood too fast for about a week. The nerve gets thicker from the pumping blood, and starts pushing on the eyeball. Bruce Hartman, a local San Diegan, has this disease and is in much pain. Pop Eye makes you see double images, so Bruce is forced to wear glasses. The glasses have a lens that makes a person that doesn't have Pop-Eye, see double. So, when he puts his glasses on, he sees regular images. There is no cure for this; he can just hope it will heal on its own.

### AWESOME ACCOMPLISHMENTS

My name is Craig Hartman. I go to Francis Parker School. I am the fastest kid in the school. I first was said to be the fastest in the school when I was in third grade. At the beginning of the year I was the second fastest but at the end of the year I finally was the fastest in the school. So here I am, and here I'll hopefully stay.



long awaited vacation at Disneyworld. We took off for the airport at 6:30 a.m. and left the happy travelers on their way to Florida. About 9:30 a.m. our phone rang and Francie was on the line to report that they were still in San Diego. Apparently the flight crew had not enjoyed sufficient rest time (perhaps due to late flights out of the snow bound east). Consequently the 7:30 flight was delayed until 12:30 p.m. Consequently the crew was picked up and returned to Grandpa home to relax in comfort until the delayed flight was ready. The airline was kind enough to telephone ahead to the hotel and car rental to inform them of late arrival. Also, they issued certificates for breakfast for all at the airport. The return trip was unevent-

ful, however, and the preliminary report was that all had a great time. We do not have, thus far, the full story and photos, but they should be available for the next issue. The other shuttle service involved Margaret and Bud, who both traveled on business, one to New York and the other to Philadelphia. The departure was on schedule, but the return was delayed from early Sunday afternoon to Sunday evening.

### HARTMAN FAMILY NEWS BY REPORTER CRAIG

Recently we received a copy of some news items and opinions written some time ago by Craig. They are reproduced in the above section, as received. We are always interested in items of



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this type from any of the grandchildren, so if you have some news or views send them along to and we will be more than glad to publish them in a future issue.

## JESSICA AND DUSTIN PERFORM IN MUSICAL ALADDIN

The Christian Youth Theater, San Diego/East County recently presented the musical Aladdin, and Jessica and Dustin both had roles in this charming story of the famous Aladdin and his magic lamp. Both children had roles in the Genie Special group, which involved singing some of the songs which make up most of the story line. Both played their parts like veterans, and the show was enjoyed by a sold out crowd. In addition to Grandma and Grandpa Bob and Listy were present, along with Aunt Birdy. Also in attendance were the Hartmans, Gillinghams and Jason Benesch. In spite of the heavy rainstorm which arrived just as the performance was concluded, everyone had a great time. Because of the success of the show there are plans in work for a rerun during the first week of August. If you missed the first series, all is not lost, since you can take in one of the August 1-5 show dates. If you are interested call Carol, and she can arrange for tickets. Don't hesitate, however, since more sell out crowds are expected. We have reproduced in the opposite columns a letter from Director Paul Russell to the Benesch family, in which Paul thanks the Benesches for their part in this highly successful show. We certainly add our own congratulations to Jessica and Dustin.

## SPORTS NEWS

Kevin Riel has taken up basketball in a big way recently, and is a member of two teams. He is on the YMCA Traveling team, which is undefeated thus far. He also is on the Point loma High School Freshman team. Thus far we have no news on it's record, but are confident Kevin will do well.

Grandpa and Grandma are still playing golf at Stardust C.C. but all that may change, come the first of July. when the lease on the land, which



## CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY THEATER

March 2, 1994

The Benesch Family  
7655 Bromeliad Ct  
San Diego, CA. 92119

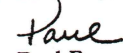
Dear Jeff, Carol, Dustin and Jessica:

Thank you for being a part of *Aladdin*. What a magic show! I can't thank you enough for all your hard work in making the magic come alive on stage. It is one of the top attended shows in CYT history with over 6,000 people in attendance. Everyone working together made every aspect of the show a real treat.

The costumes were absolutely wonderful. Everything looked so professional and made the stage come alive with color. It was everything I had hoped for. You're truly a blessing name.

Thank you for being a part of this landmark production, and I hope to see you in August at Theatre East.

Sincerely,

  
Paul Russell  
Director, *Aladdin*

1545 PIONEER WAY • EL CAJON, CA 92020 • (619) 588-0206 • FAX (619) 588-4384

### Executive Board of Directors

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was arranged in July of 1944, will come to an end. The owners are anxious to generate a substantial increase in income. Although there has been no official announcements, the rumors are that the original plan to build a shopping center/apartment/office complex has been shelved, at least for the present time, and the golf course will be preserved, but will become public. No information has been released on the fee structure, nor has there been any definition of what arrangements will be made, if any to preserve the present membership. The situation is further complicated by the plans being made by the Metropolitan Transit Authority to extend the trolley line from downtown to Old Town and then through Mission Valley to the stadium. The small River Valley Golf Course already has been purchased by the MTA, and will close at the end of this month. The Trolley line will wipe out portions of the course, and we understand that plans are being made to restructure the course to accommodate the trolley line. All this may have a significant influence on how much golf Grandpa and Grandma will be playing after July 1. We will keep you informed on this subject, as soon as an official announcement is made.

## MICHAEL AND MEGAN WIN WRITING AWARDS.

Recently Michael submitted his entry in the San Diego Union Student Writing Contest, and his submission, reproduced on the opposite columns, was one of 14 finalists in the Letters to the Editor (Grades 6-9) category. There were over 4000 entries, and his letter certainly deserved the attention it was given. We certainly agree with his contention that sports stars command salaries which are all out of proportion to their merit to society. It should be pointed out, however, that they are in the entertainment business, and as long as the public continues to (1) pay the price to attend the games, (2) watch televised games, and buy the products advertised and (3) buy the products the sports figures endorse, the payment of high salaries will continue.

Megan also was honored in her speciality, the writing of poems. One of her creations has been selected for publication in the book *Borders Voices*, put out by S.D.State University. We hope to have a copy for the next issue.

943 San Dieguito Dr.  
Encinitas, CA, 92024  
942-0734

November 29, 1993

Dear Editor

I enjoy watching sports, especially basketball. Sitting on my favorite chair I see giant men grabbing a ball that looks like a grapefruit in their huge hands. Then I wonder why they do this instead of working in an office. Then I remember the answer. They get paid millions!

Why do they get paid huge sums of money for playing like a bunch of kids? I don't think this is fair. They should not get paid more than someone who goes to school for 20 years.

If people work hard in school then they should get rewarded. A kid who decides to study for a big test the next day while his friends play basketball at the park is considered responsible. He is investing in his future. But when his friends who always played basketball grow up and become Jordan or Shaq, they become role models, not the responsible boy who became a college professor.

Athletes also become greedy. Derrick Coleman was offered a \$69 million, eight year contract by the New Jersey Nets. He rejected it saying "Call me back when you are ready to talk nine figures." Charles Barkley has been in the NBA for a while and remembers when players "struggled" to get over a \$1 million contract. This shows that salaries have gone up drastically in 10 years. I think this is ridiculous.

I think if money to be earned for work it should be given to those who went to college and worked hard at their desks late at night and got up at 5:00 to go to school. I think basketball and other sports should be part time jobs. This will encourage children to go to school because they will be rewarded for it. Then other countries will look at our proud United States and say there is a hard working country that knows how to survive.

Sincerely,

Michael Riel-Mehan  
San Diego





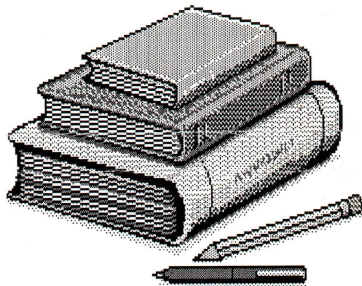
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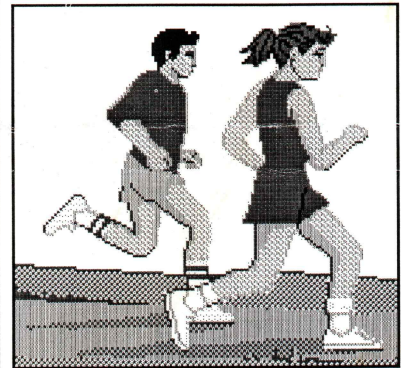


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